

Attorney Docket No.: 6535.200-US
USN: 10/671,064
Filed: September 25, 2003
Inventor: Christensen et al.
Via Facsimile No.: 571-273-8300

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20, 23 and 26-35 are pending following entry of the above amendments to the claims.

In the present Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 23 and 25-34 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Here, the amendment to independent claim 1 incorporates the limitations of cancelled claim 21 and objected to claim 25 and the addition of independent claim 35 is made to create a second independent claim which combines the limitations of claim 1 with the limitations of cancelled claim 21 and objected to claim 23. Accordingly, while Applicants recognize that entry of amendments to the claims after a final rejection is not a matter of right, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments presented herein because they are believed to comply with the Examiner's remarks regarding objected to claims 23 and 25-34 and hence, place the application in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103

A. Claims 1-5 and 8-22 and 24 are rejected as obvious over Laustsen et al US Patent 6,582,606 in view of Weiss et al US Patent No 5,453,200.

B. Claim 6 was rejected as obvious over Laustsen in view of Weiss as above and further in view of Rochilgo et al US Patent 5,143,630.

C. Claim 7 was rejected as obvious over Laustsen in view of Weiss as above and further in view of Husain et al US Patent 6,814,862 (actually 6,814,861).

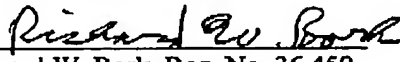
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In response to each of the rejections set forth in A-C above, Applicants note that the Examiner indicated in the present Office Action that claims 23 and 25-34 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 1 presented herein as well as the addition of claim 35 have complied with the Examiner's request and have therefore rendered these rejections moot.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that in view of the amendments presented herein, the application is now in condition for allowance and early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 27, 2006


Richard W. Bork, Reg. No. 36,459
Novo Nordisk, Inc.
100 College Road West
Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 987-5800

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